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As a parent, educator, business person and board member, E-Rate has played an important role in connecting my school, my community, the schools I support, and the children I love to the global world.

While E-Rate's original effort to connect schools to the Internet was successful, since then, the world has become larger, is more connected, and requires more bandwidth to keep pace with the speed at which information is shared, used and deployed. Connecting to the Internet is important to me as a digital citizen, as someone who lives in the 21st century, shares and retrieves information. As a learner I understand the importance of having information available at my fingertips. As an educator, I know how important it is that my students have access to high speed Internet to support multiple ways of learning.

Whether learning happens through blended learning environments, virtual learning centers, or through the use of digital content, high speed connectivity is important. When schools need to support online assessments, high speed connectivity to the Internet is critical.

In order to continue to impact schools and communities, and in order to help children, especially those that cannot afford access or do not have easy access to the Internet, E-Rate should be increased to the funding levels needed to move learning forward.

I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high-speed broadband. Our nation's future depends on their success.